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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,117	12/10/2003	Hiroshi Sudo	118013	4658
25944	7590	07/28/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				ESTRADA, ANGEL R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2831				

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/731,117	SUDO ET AL. <i>Arv</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angel R. Estrada	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/10/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on December 10, 2003 has been considered by the Examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "*an adhesive agent being filled in the clamp portion*", claim 4, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of

any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. Figures 19-21 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is sold is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ghirardi (US 3,711,632).

Regarding claim 1, Ghirardi discloses a joint (10) for a tubular cable cover (T) comprising: a grip portion (see figure 2) formed by a pair of half-split grip portions (30, see figure 2) and configured to grip an end portion of the tubular cable cover (T)

exteriorly mounted on a cable (L) by joining the pair of half-split grip portions (see figure 1); a clamp portion (22,24) formed by a pair of half-split clamp portions (see figure 2) and configured to clamp the cable (L, see column 3 lines 63-column 4 lines 28) exposed from the end portion by joining the pair of half-split clamp portions (see figure 2); and a clamp protrusion (60,66) formed on an inner surface of the clamp portion (see figure 2-4) and configured to clamp the cable exposed from the end portion by pressing the cable in a radial direction (see column 3 lines 63-column 4 lines 28).

Regarding claim 2, Ghirardi discloses the joint (10), wherein the pair of half-split grip portions (30) is connected to each other with a hinge portion (26).

Regarding claim 3, Ghirardi discloses the joint (10), wherein the pair of half-split clamp portions (22,24) is connected to each other with a hinge portion (26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghirardi (US 3,711,632) of Kortenbach (US 6,627,817).

Regarding claim 4, Ghirardi discloses the claimed invention except for an adhesive agent being filled in the clamp portion. Kortenbach teaches a joint (see figures 9a and 9b) having a cable clamp portion (defined by reference number 10) being filled with an adhesive agent (column 11 lines 6-11 or column 13 lines 47-65). It would have been obvious to one or ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fill Ghirardi's clamp portion with an adhesive agent as taught by Kortenbach to provide the joint with watertightness means whenever is necessary.

Regarding claim 5, Ghirardi discloses the claimed invention except for a resilient member disposed between the clamp portion and the cable to be clamped. Kortenbach teaches a joint (see figures 9a and 9b) having a clamp portion (defined by reference number 10); the joint has a resilient member (50) disposed between the clamp portion and the cable to be clamped (see figure 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide to Ghirardi's joint with a resilient member between the clamp portion and the cable to be clamped as taught by Kortenbach to provide means that would increase the outer diameter of the cables for firmly secure the cables inside the joint by increase the clamping pressure.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aoki et al (US 6,595,473), Miyamoto et al (US 6,668,865), Armbruster (US 4,573,715), Lomberty et al (US 5,046,766), Skopic (US 5,594,213), Kozel et al (US 4,719,321) and Baker (US 5,198,619) disclose a joint having a clamp portion.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AE
July 23, 2004

Angel R. Estrada

Angel R. Estrada
Patent Examiner
Art Unit : 2831